

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation
INITIAL DETERMINATION

This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
Submersible Research Vessel [Unnamed]	NR 1
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
Submersible Research Vessel (Self-Propelled)	
Vessel Location	Current Status
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton WA	Inactivated

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
24 August 2015	Eligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	No previous U.S. naval vessel has been thus designated
Displacement	Submerged displacement of about 400 tons
Length	Overall length: 137 ft.; pressure hull length 96 ft., 1 inch (diameter: 12 ft. 6 in.)
Beam	3.8 m (12 ft. 6 in.) 4.8 m (15 ft. 9 in.) at stern stabilizers
Draft	4.6 m (15 ft. 1 in.) Box keel depth (below base-line): 3.9 ft.
Speed	Able to stay submerged and move at a maximum speed of approximately 4 knots; typical speed 4.5 knots (8.3 km/h; 5.2 mph) surfaced 3.5 knots (6.5 km/h; 4.0 mph) submerged
Propulsion	2 × external motors 2 × propellers 4 × ducted thrusters (mounted diagonally in two "x-configured" pairs); nuclear fueled; one turbo alternator

Armament	None
Laid Down	10 June 1967
Launched	25 January 1969
Built By	Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics, Groton, CT
Sponsor	Mrs. Robert W. Morse
Delivered	27 October 1969
Commissioned	n/a
Inactivated	Inactivation ceremony held on 21 November 2008 (Groton, CT), with defueling conducted at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Transferred to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.
Decommissioned	n/a
Stricken	

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Missions: (1) Topographic and geologic surveys of the ocean floor along the continental shelf; (2) searching for and identifying objects lost at sea; (3) recovering objects lost at sea; (4) placement or repair of objects on the ocean floor. NR 1 was involved in long-term, large-area fisheries research; studies of the mid-Atlantic ridge that revealed data on marine biology and plate tectonics. Her investigation of large hydrocarbon seeps in the Gulf of Mexico revealed previously unknown marine species and large areas of aquatic life in regions of mixing seawater and hydrocarbons. Final mission in 2008 was a hunt for the wreck of the BONHOMME RICHARD, the warship that had been commanded by Captain John Paul Jones in the Battle of Flamborough Head. Numerous classified missions.</p> <p>In 2013, it was announced that salvaged pieces of NR 1 would be displayed</p>
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	at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, CT.
Awards	3 Navy Unit Commendations and 3 Meritorious Unit Commendations; 9 Battle Efficiency "E"s
Noteworthy Events	In 1976, NR 1 was employed in USN operations to recover a Navy F-14 <i>Tomcat</i> fighter and a <i>Phoenix</i> air-to-air missile which were lost from a carrier in the Atlantic Ocean off of the coast of North Carolina. Both the fighter craft and the missile were brought to the surface with salvage lines attached by NR-1 to assist in retrieval. NR1 also used to recover pieces of the Space Shuttle CHALLENGER in 1986. NR 1's participation in scientific missions contributed to numerous oceanographic research papers including a feature article in the National Geographic (4/85). NR 1 searched for shipwrecks around the world, including a long-lost Israeli submarine that vanished in 1968. She also worked with the Institute for Exploration at the Mystic Aquarium to search for evidence of early Native American settlements now underwater.
DANFS* Entry	Yes, not current

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No
iii. Was a President of the United States was assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No
iv. Was the vessel the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	Yes. At the time she was placed into service in 1969, NR 1 was the only manned, deep submergence research vehicle with a nuclear reactor. She was the only nuclear manned research submersible capable of operating at a depth of

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

	3,000 ft. Her unique features included extendable bottoming wheels, three viewing ports for visual observation, and a manipulator arm. Very extensive navigation system including an Omega receiver, sonar equipment, Doppler sonar, underwater telephone and radio transceiver, and related computer equipment.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	No
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Eligible

Sources	“Introduction” (untitled paper in NR-1 Unclassified Archives)
	NNS020804-03. Submarine NR-1 Conducts Operations for Scientific Community, Navy News, 6 August 2002
	Welcome Aboard, Submarine NR-1, ‘The World’s Finest Deep Submersible’
	Change of Command brochure, Submarine NR-1, 30 July 1993
	NNS081126-23, “NR-1 Submarine Dives Into History” 26 November 2008
	Wikipedia, “American Submarine NR-1”
	Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships “NR-1”

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received __ written comments.

Comments Received	Comment Disposition